

Applicant: Smith, et al.
Application Serial No.: 09/691,782
Filing Date: October 19, 2000
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The application has been amended. Claims 15-17 and 19-21 have been cancelled. New claims 15-18 are submitted herewith. The present application is a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 5,824,046 issued October 20, 1998. In accordance with reissue practice, the claims are numbered consecutively from those of the original patent.

Claims 15-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §251 as being improper recapture of broadened claim subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, and without prejudice to filing a continuing application, claims 15-17 and 19-21 are hereby cancelled.

Claims 1-14 have been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. This determination is gratefully acknowledged.

New claims 15-18 are presented herewith. These claims are directed to subject matter which Applicants failed to claim in the original patent and therefore is proper subject matter for reissue.

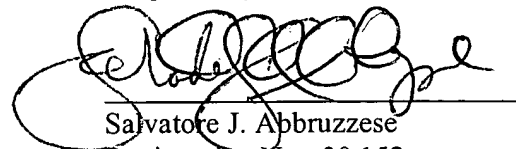
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As claims 1-14 have been indicated as being allowable and as claims 15-18 depend from allowable claims, it is respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 1-18 is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this submission, please contact undersigned counsel at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salvatore J. Abbruzzese', is written over a horizontal line.

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